GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4023
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2007
RAIILWAY LINE FROM BILASPUR TO MANDLA-JABALPUR-NEW DELHI
Mohale Shri Punnulal

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for laying railway line from Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh to Mandla− Jabalpur−New Delhi was conducted many years back;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in laying the rail line; and

(c) the time by which said line is proposed to be laid?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (c): A survey was completed during 2003−04 exploring two alternative ways of connecting Bilaspur to Jabalpur − one, by constructing a direct line between Bilaspur and Jabalpur via Mandla avoiding Nainpur and the other, by constructing a new line from Bilaspur up to Mandla Fort only and completing the gauge conversion of Mandla Fort−Nainpur section. As per the survey report, the cost of the first option was assessed as Rs. 1284.11 crore, while the second option as Rs. 736.96 crore, with a negative rate of return (ROR) in both the cases.

In view of non-remunerative nature of the project, heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it has not been considered feasible to take up construction of Bilaspur−Mandla−Jabalpur new line wholly or partly for the present.